



One North Franklin
Chicago, IL 60606-3421
(312) 422-3000
www.aha.org

August 1, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Room 1-A804
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Attn: Leslie Smith

RE: Docket No. 02-278

This comment on the Telephone Consumer Protection Act rules published at 68 FR, No. 143, page 44144 – 44179, are filed on behalf of the American Hospital Association. The Association is a healthcare trade association whose membership consists of approximately 4500 of the nations hospitals and health systems and over 30,000 individual health care providers.

The Association supports the Petition for Emergency Clarification and Petition for Stay filed on behalf of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), to obtain clarification of the unsolicited facsimile advertising rules as they apply to tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations and, in the alternative, to stay the rules as they apply to tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations. The Commission's removal of the exception for established business relationships, together with the failure of the Commission to address the unique nature of the manner in which trade associations communicate with members, will significantly impede communication by tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations with their members.

The Association respectfully requests that the Commission respond affirmatively to the ASAE's Petition for Emergency Clarification or, alternatively, grant the ASAE's Petition for Stay to allow additional time for consideration of the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James A. Henderson'.

James A. Henderson
Vice President and Corporate Counsel